

REMARKS

Claims 4, 6-10, 12 and 14-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 8-10, 12, 14 and 16 are amended and claims 1-3, 5, 11 and 13 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter contained therein. Claims 4, 6, 8, 12 and 14 have been rewritten into independent form. Support for new claims 17-19 may be found at least on page 7 of the specification. No new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 4, 6-10, 12, 14 and 15 contain allowable subject matter. As noted above, claims 4, 6, 8, 12 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form and thus should be allowable. Further, claims 7, 9, 10, 11, 15 and 16 are allowable at least for their dependency from one of claims 4, 6, 8, 12 or 14 as well as for the additional features they recite.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/00800562 to Nakamura et al. (hereinafter "Nakamura"). Claims 1-3, 5 and 13 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

III. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 11 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura. Claim 11 has been canceled and claim 16 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 4.

Accordingly, the rejection has been rendered moot.

IV. Claims 17-19 Define Patentable Subject Matter

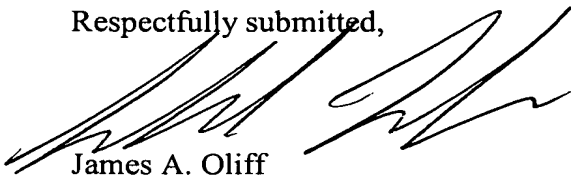
Claims 17-19 are patentable at least for their dependency from one of allowable claims 8, 12 or 14, as well as for the additional features they recite.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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